

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, and 10 have been amended. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Applicants' alleged admitted prior art, hereafter "Applicants' Art," in view of Davis et al. (US 6,611,607), hereafter "Davis." Claims 2, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Applicants' Art, Davis, and further in view of Liao et al. (U.S. 6,654,479), hereafter "Liao." Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Applicants' Art, Davis, and further in view of Hayashi (U.S. 2003/0161496). These rejections are defective because the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Regarding independent claim 1 (and similarly independent claims 6 and 10), the Examiner alleges that Applicants' Art "discloses a method of embedding a watermark in an information signal, comprising means for embedding said watermark in successive portions of the information signal." The Examiner further asserts that Applicants' Art "does not explicitly disclose embedding different versions of watermark and said versions being different with respect to a property which is irrelevant for detection of said watermark." To overcome this glaring deficiency, the Examiner relies on the disclosure of Davis. In particular, the Examiner alleges that Davis discloses that "different watermarks can be embedded into different frames using different transformations (Davis: column 6 lines 16-26)." The Examiner attempts to combine Applicants' Art and Davis by stating that "[i]t would have been obvious ... to combine the teachings of Davis within the system of AAPA

because it increases security of data using different watermarks on different portions of the information signal thus making it more difficult to analyze watermark patterns." Applicants disagree with the Examiner's analysis of Davis.

In claim 1, different versions of the **same watermark** are embedded in successive portions of an information signal. In Davis however, the embedder locates **different watermark messages** in different temporal portions of a time varying signal such as audio or video, **different watermark messages** in different spatial portions of images, graphical models, or video frames, or **different watermark messages** in different transform domains (e.g., Discrete Fourier Transform, Discrete Cosine Transform, Wavelet transform, etc.) of image or audio signals." (Column 6, lines 16-26). Clearly, therefore, Davis discloses the use of different watermarks rather than **different versions of the same watermark** as claimed. Davis also fails to teach or suggest the use of different versions of the same watermark, wherein the different versions of the watermark are "different with respect to a **property which is irrelevant for detection of said watermark.**" This feature was not specifically addressed by the Examiner. In particular, the Examiner has not stated which property of Davis' watermarks allegedly corresponds to the claimed "property," nor has the Examiner disclosed where in Davis it is disclosed that such a property is "irrelevant for detection of said watermark."

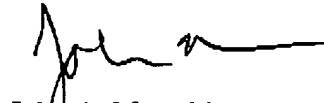
Liao and Hayashi fail to remedy the above-described deficiencies of Applicants' Art and Davis.

Accordingly, since the cited references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/25/05



John A. Merecki
Reg. No. 35,812

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile